

15 April 1959

IRAQ - BACKGROUND

HUMAN AND OTHER RESOURCES

- I. Population: 6,500,000 (based on official figures of 1957 Iraqi census)
 - A. 25% urban, 65% settled or semi-nomadic farmers, 10% nomadic tribesmen
 - B. Largest minority group is Kurds (roughly 800,000 or 12%); other sizable minority groups are Turkomen, Iranian, Assyrian and Armenian
 - C. Bulk of population is Arab Moslem. Iraq is 95% Moslem-- but Moslems are about evenly divided into two major competing sects: the dominant Sunni Moslems (which include the Kurds) and the Shia Moslems.
 - D. Almost 90% of population is illiterate; shortage of skilled labor and technicians is acute.
- II. Economic: Three-fourths of population is dependent on agriculture.
 - A. Per capita income estimated at \$150 per year--which is low but better than most Middle Eastern countries.
 - B. Most important resource is oil; Iraq is sixth largest petroleum producer
 - C. Little other manufacturing industry has yet been established; such industry accounts for only 10% of national income
 - D. Petroleum accounts for more than 90% of total value 9

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of Iraqi exports, with grain, dates and wool of some importance as well.

E. Industrial equipment and machinery make up 40% of imports, with tea, sugar and textiles next in importance.

F. Total governmental expenditures 1958-59 were more than \$400,000,000. Of this \$235^{million}/was regular budgetary expenditure; most of remainder was for economic development. Oil revenues supplied more than \$200,000,000.